

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14427

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT OPN UN UR US

SUBJECT: COMPARISON OF GROMYKO TV INTERVIEW WITH TASS ACCOUNT

SUMMARY: COMPARISON OF GROYMKO TV INTERVIEW, AIRED IN MOSCOW SATURDAY EVENING (OCTOBER 1) WITH SUBSEQUENT TASS VERSION OF INTERVIEW INDICATES SOVIET SENSITIVITY REGARDING CHARACTERIZATION OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING PRIME TIME EVENING OF OCTOBER 1 SOVIET TV RAN THIRTY-MINUTE INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO, CONFIDENTIAL

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IN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO REASSURE SOVIET AUDIENCE THAT ON EVE OF 60TH ANNIVERSARY USSR'S DETENTE POLICY WAS DOING WELL. INTERVIEWER WAS TV COMMENTATOR ON US AFFAIRS VALENTIN ZORIN (WHO IS ALSO AFFILIATED WITH USA INSTITUTE). INTERVIEW WAS TAPED IN NEW YORK ON SEPTEMBER 30 AND RELAYED TO MOSCOW VIA SATELLITE. EXTENSIVE TASS ACCOUNT OF GROMYKO'S REMARKS (WE ASSUME

DEPARTMENT HAS FULL TEXT) APPEARED IN SOVIET PRESS
OCTOBER 2.

2. COMPARISON OF TEXT OF INTERVIEW WITH TASS REPORT
PROVIDES INDICATION OF MOSCOW'S SENSITIVITY ABOUT
CURRENT STATE OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS. IN EDITING
GROMYKO'S REMARKS, TASS APPARENTLY ATTEMPTED TO
STRIKE JUST THE RIGHT BALANCE ON THIS TOPIC, SHOWING
PROGRESS IN US-SOVIET RELATIONS WHILE ALSO INDICATING
THAT MOSCOW, WITH ITS "PRINCIPLED" POSITION, WAS NOT UNDULY
CONCERNED OVER CURRENT PROBLEMS IN THE REALTIONSHIP.
ALSO OF INTEREST WAS TASS'S BOOSTING OF BREZHNEV'S IMAGE.

3. US-SOVIET RELATIONS AND SALT. DURING THE INTERVIEW,
GROMYKO NOTED THATTHE SOVIET POSITION REGARDING "ONE-
SIDED" USPROPOSALS HAD BEEN MADE CLEAR TO THE US
DURING AND AFTER SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT TO THE USSR
(LAST MARCH). THIS NEGATIVE COMMENT WAS DELETED BY
TASS. BUT WHERE GROMYKO SAID THAT CURRENT SALT
DISCUSSIONS SAW "A FURTHER DRAWING TOGETHER" OF POSITIONS,
TASS ADDED THE QUALIFIER "A 'CERTAIN' FURTHER DRAWING
TOGETHER."

4. GROMYKO SUMMED UP HIS REMARKS ON SALT BY SAYING THAT
THERE HAD BEEN "FORWAR
MOVEMENT" AND "WE'LL SEE HOW
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MATTERS DEVELOP FURTHER." TASS DELETED THIS ALTOGHETHER.

5. US-SOVIET SUMMIT. GROMYKO SAID THAT "IF EVENT
TOOK SUCH A TURN," A SUMMIT WOULD BE A "VERY GREAT
STEP" IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS. TASS
DELETED THE PHRASE "IF EVENTS TOOK SUCH A TURN," AND
TONED "VERY GREAT STEP" DOWN TO "A GREAT STEP."

6. TASS DELETED ENTIRELY THE LAST QUESTION AND
ANSWER, DEALING WITH THE OVERALL PROSPECTS FOR DETENTE,
IN WHICH GROMYKO ALLUDED TO THE CHINESE. IN THIS
PROTION OF THE INTERVIEW GROMYKO SAID THAT THE
STRONGEST INTERNATIONAL TENDENCY WAS TOWARD DETENTE,
ALTHOUGH SEPARTE VOICES COULD BE FOUND, EVEN AT THE
UNGA, WHICH CLAIMED THAT THE WORSE THINGS WERE, THE
BETTER.

7. BULT OF BREZHNEV. ON TWO OCCASIONS GROMYKO
REFERRED TO SOVIET LEADERS, INCLUDING BREZHNEV. TASS
RE-WROTE THE TEXT SO AS TO FOCUS ONLY ON LEONID
IL'ICH:
--GROMYKO SAID "GOVERNMENT FIGURES IN THE USSR,

AND L.I. BREZHNEV PERSONALLY, FREQUENTLY UNDERSCORED"
THE DOMINATE INTERNATIONAL TENDENCY TOWARD DETENTE;
TASS REVISED THE PHRASE TO READ "GENERAL SECRETARY
OF THE CPSU CC, CHAIRMAN OF THE SS PRESIDUM L.I.
BREZHNEV FREQUENTLY UNDERSCORED...;" AND
--WHERE GROYMKO SAID THAT "FREQUENTLY WE, AND
PERSONALLY LEONID IL'ICH BREZHNEV," EXPRESSED OUR
POSITION REGARDING RELATIONS WITH THE US, TASS HAS
GROMYKO SAYING "L.I. BREZHNEV FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED
OUR POSITION..."
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